



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Debris Management

USACE MISSION

As the nation's primary federal engineering agency, Americans rely on the Corps of Engineers' response during natural disasters and other emergencies. Throughout the Nation's history, citizens have relied on the Army to respond to their needs in disasters. In a typical year, the Corps of Engineers responds to more than 30 Presidential disaster declarations, plus numerous state and local emergencies. Emergency responses usually involve cooperation with other military elements and Federal agencies in support of State and local efforts. The Corps of Engineers conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities: the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (P.L. 84-99, as amended) and the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288, as amended). Under the Stafford Act, the Corps supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in carrying out the National Response Plan, which calls on 27 Federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated disaster relief and recovery operations. Under this plan, the Army has the lead responsibility for public works and engineering missions.

Assistance under the Stafford Act is provided only when state, regional and local resources are exhausted. Local governments must request assistance through the Regional Unified Command Structure or appropriate state channels. The Corps of Engineers can deploy Local Government Liaisons (LGLs) to impacted Regional Unified Command centers and/or counties to provide information about recovery missions and for coordination assistance.

Under the Federal Response Plan and at FEMA's direction, the Corps may provide Technical Advice and/or Direct Federal Assistance in the clearance, removal, and disposal of contaminated and uncontaminated debris. Debris can be removed from public property, ground and water transportation routes following a Presidentially-declared natural or technological disaster or terrorist event. The types of debris range from vegetative, trees and brush, to household contents debris such as refrigerators. In the event of contaminated debris, the Corps may provide waste sampling, classification, packaging, transportation, treatment, demolition, and disposal of contaminated debris and soil. Debris cannot be removed from private or commercial properties;



Corps contractor removes residential debris in Jefferson County.

however, small business loans are available through FEMA.

- Technical Assistance may include (but is not limited to) advising local government on estimation of debris quantity, contract scoping, quality assurance and safety oversight and training, and environmental issues such as recommending locations for reduction sites.

- Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) may include (but is not limited to):

- (1) Right of Way Debris Removal – Removal, reduction and disposal from the public rights of way and public property, such as parks and schools. Citizens must move debris from private property to public rights of way identified by local government for pick up.
- (2) Demolition – Removal, reduction and disposal of residential or commercial structures.
- (3) Debris Removal from Drainage Structures and non-Federal Waterways – Removal, reduction and disposal from streams, reservoirs and channels and non-Federal coastal waterways where the debris impedes navigation.
- (4) Leaners & Hangers - Trees that are leaning more than 30 degrees in the public right of way and broken tree limbs that are more than 2 inches in diameter and are considered to pose a potential hazard to the public can be removed. Hazard must be on public right of way. Interstates, state roads and rural areas are not included.

Under normal circumstances Debris Management is executed at 75% to 100% Federal cost and 0% to 25%

local cost through completion of the mission. Cost share is determined by FEMA based on level of damage and area of impact. Eligibility of debris for removal is determined by FEMA. Congressional directives can expand or modify the level of assistance that can be provided to local government. The Corps maintains ten pre-awarded debris contingency contracts that permit contractors to begin mobilizing within 24 hours. Each contract requires subcontracting with local contractors to “the maximum extent practicable” as required by the Stafford Act.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Local Government

- Identify and prioritize requirements needed, including where, what, when, how.
- Request assistance through appropriate state channels to ensure state and regional resources are exhausted.
- Provide necessary permits and licenses.
- Provide real estate support to include land for reduction sites and rights-of-entry.
- Provide technical advisor and consultant to USACE PRT.
- Provide technical advice and assistance in the handling and disposal of hazardous material.
- Identify available recycling/reduction facilities for disposal of debris.

State Government

- Validates, consolidates, and prioritizes local government requests
- Provides regulatory support, guidance, and oversight

FEMA

- Validates eligibility and priority of State government requests.
- Validates scope of work and performance criteria of how fast, how much, how often.

USACE

- Issues and manages debris contracts to execute assigned mission.
- Conducts Environmental Assessments of reduction sites.
- Secures rights-of-entry for all collection and reduction sites.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

- Who is responsible for providing reduction/disposal sites?
- Who will provide rights of entry/hold harmless document?
- How will household hazardous waste be dealt with?
- How will hazardous and toxic waste, such as asbestos and freon be dealt with?
- Who will provide state Historical Preservation services?
- Who will address NEPA/Environmental issues?
- Who is responsible for pick-up and hauling?
- How will “white” goods be addressed?
- Method of reduction Incineration, Grinding/Chipping, or none
- What will be done with any mulch generated by chipping/grinding?
- What are the processes used to remove debris and can examples of each be shown?
 - Removal
 - Will removal be accomplished by curb side pick-up?
 - Will contractors need to enter private property?
 - Reduction
 - Where will reduction sites be located?
 - Disposal
 - Demolition
- Where are the locations where debris is coming from and the reduction/disposal it will be going to?
- How many days do you expect to have before removal operations are complete?
- At what point would debris removal operations be complete, i.e. after three complete passes?



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